

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 01584 210042 Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03

CG-00 EB-11 RSR-01 /094 W
----- 105397

R 210010 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0561

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1584

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: DFA OFFICIAL CONFIRMS OMEGA SUBMISSION TO
CABINET "IMMINENT"

REF: CANBERRA 1538

1. IN CONVERSATION MARCH 20, TONY DINGLE, DEFENSE
LIAISON BRANCH OF DFA , STATED THAT CABINET SUBMISSION ON
OMEGA WAS "IMMINENT". SINCE PARLIAMENT IS NOT IN
SESSION THIS WEEK, FIRST SCHEDULE CABINET
MEETINGS WILL BEGIN WEEK OF MARCH 26, AT WHICH TIME IT
ASSUMED OMEGA SUBMISSION WILL BE MADE.

2. DINGLE THOUGHT THAT TOOHEY NEWS ARTICLE WAS INACCURATE
IN THAT IT REPORTED CABINET RATHER THAN CAUCUS CONSIDERATION
OF OMEGA TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK. HE SUGGESTED THAT
OMEGA MAY WELL HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN ALP CAUCUS MEETING BUT HE
WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THIS. DINGLE WAS ALSO
UNABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER DENILQUIN IN NEW SOUTH WALES
IS THE SITE SELECTED FOR THE OMEGA STATION.

3. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, DINGLE NOTED THAT
RESPONSIBILITY FOR OMEGA WOULD BE SHIFTED FROM
DEFENSE LIAISON OFFICE OF WHICH HE IS A PART, TO
ANOTHER UNSPECIFIED PART OF DFA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
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SUCH A SHIFT, HE NOTED, WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE
FACT THAT THE DEPT. OF TRANSPORT NOW HAS PRIMARY
RESPONSIBILITY FOR OMEGA WITHIN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERN-
MENT. WHILE HE DID NOT SAY SO, IT WILL ALSO MAKE IT
EASIER FOR DFA TO RESPOND TO PUBLIC QUESTIONS THAT OMEGA
WITHIN DFA IS HANDLED BY A BRANCH OTHER THAN ONE
DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH DEFENSE MATTERS.
RICE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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